

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 USIE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
TRSE-00 MCT-01 DHA-02 OPR-02 AID-05 OMB-01 /073 W
-----086621 071406Z /40

O R 071255Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2707
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
AMEMBASSY DACCA
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMCONSUL KARACHI
AMCONSUL LAHORE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 6969

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PK
SUBJECT: ZIA FURTHER CONSOLIDATES POWER

1. GENERAL ZIA IS IN COMPLETE COMMAND OF THE SITUATION
IN PAKISTAN AS THE MARTIAL LAW REGIME CONSOLIDATES POWER.
THE FOUR-MAN MILITARY COUNCIL APPEARS TO BE FUNCTIONING
SMOOTHLY, ACTING PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS HAVE BEEN SWORN IN
AND THE BUREAUCRACY, SO FAR, IS LENDING THE GOVERNMENT
ITS FULL SUPPORT. THE SECURITY SITUATION REMAINS PEACEFUL
AND THE PUBLIC REACTION CONTINUES TO BE POSITIVE.

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2. IN A BRIEF CONVERSATION AT A SOCIAL FUNCTION ON JULY 6
WITH EMBASSY OFFICE OF DEFENSE REPRESENTATIVE OFFICER,
ZIA SAID THE DECISION TO ASSUME CONTROL WAS MADE AFTER
THE ARMY HAD TO ACT IN LAHORE TO STOP POLITICAL RIOTING
DURING THE PAST WEEKEND. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE ARMY
DID NOT WISH TO GOVERN, WHICH IS WHY IT HELD OFF FOR
THREE MONTHS TO ALLOW TIME FOR A POLITICAL SOLUTION.

ZIA SAID HE WANTED TO SET A PRECEDENT THAT THE ARMY WOULD NOT INTERVENE AS IT HAS DONE IN THE PAST. HOWEVER, THE TWO SIDES DISTRUSTED EACH OTHER COMPLETELY, ZIA SAID, AND HE HAD NO OTHER CHOICE -- AN AGREEMENT COULD NOT BE REACHED. HE CLAIMED IF HE HAD BEEN BHUTTO, HE WOULD ALSO HAVE REJECTED THE PNA'S LAST DEMANDS. HE DECLARED THAT ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD IF THE NEXT THREE MONTHS ARE PEACEFUL. HIS ONLY PERSONAL AMBITION, HE SAID, WAS TO RETURN TO DUTY AS CHIEF OF ARMY STAFF. AS AN INDICATION OF ZIA'S PARAMOUNTCY, HE TOLD DEFENSE REP OFFICER THAT HE HAD WRITTEN HIS SPEECH TO THE NATION AND HAD NOT CLEARED IT WITH ANYONE.

3. ADDRESSING THE FEDERAL SECRETARIES IN ISLAMABAD ON JULY 6, ZIA SAID HE WAS WORKING ON A "NINETY DAY OPERATION" TO PUT THE GOVERNMENT ON A DEMOCRATIC FOOTING. HE ASKED THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS TO QUICKLY FORMULATE RULES FOR HOLDING FRESH ELECTIONS AND SETTING UP A NEW ELECTION COMMISSION. HE TOLD THE CIVIL SERVANTS THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE VICTIMIZED, BUT EXHORTED THEM TO WORK HONESTLY. ZIA ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT FOREIGN SECRETARY AGHA SHAHI HAS BEEN PROMOTED TO SECRETARY-GENERAL IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. HE SAID THE ECONOMY HAD SUFFERED A SETBACK DURING THE RECENT DISTURBANCES AND APPEALED TO BUSINESSMEN, INDUSTRIALISTS AND LABORERS TO HELP REJUVENATE IT AND KEEP PRICES DOWN. REFERRING TO

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THE LAW AND ORDER SITUATION, HE SAID THAT PEACEFUL CONDITONS PREVAIL THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY AND EMPHASIZED THAT THE ARMED FORCES WOULD ENSURE THAT ORDER WOULD BE MAINTAINED BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THE ELECTIONS.

4. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, SOME FORTY-TWO POLITICAL PRISONERS WERE FREED ON JULY 5 IN AZAD KASHMIR WHERE THEY WERE BEING HELD. KHAWAJA KHAIRUDDIN, A FORMER BENGALIEE POLITICAL LEADER WHO FLED TO PAKISTAN AFTER THE 1971 WAR, WAS AMONG THE GROUP. ALSO OUT OF JAIL BY ORDER OF THE LAHORE HIGH COURT IS KORMER PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER AND NOW PAKISTAN MUSLIM LEAGUE LEADER HANIF RAMAY WHO IMMEDIATELY DEMANDED THAT BHUTTO AND HIS ASSOCIATES BE TRIED FOR RIGGING THE MARCH ELECTION.

5. ZIA HAS REPORTEDLY SUSPENDED CABINET SECRETARY VIQAR AHMAD, FEDERAL SECURITY FORCE DIRECTOR GENERAL MASUD MAHMUD, INTELLIGENCE BUREAU CHIEF RAO RASHID, FEDERAL INVESTIGATIVE AGENCY IAD AKRAM SHEIKH AND SOME UNSPECIFIED PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS. DESPITE HIS PROMISE TO PROTECT THE CIVIL SERVICE FROM ARBITRARY POLITICAL INTERFERENCE, ZIA APPEARS INTENT ON DEALING SWIFTLY WITH THOSE WHO MAY

HAVE BEEN GUILTY OF WRONGDOING IN THE PAST.

6. MINDFUL OF THE SAUDI INTEREST IN PAKISTANI AFFAIRS,
ZIA HAS REPORTEDLY SENT A LETTER TO KING KHALID INFORMING
HIM ABOUT THE IMPOSITION OF MARTIAL LAW AND THANKING
HIM FOR HIS EFFORTS TO BRING ABOUT A COMPROMISE POLITICAL
SOLUTION. ZIA ASSURED THE KING THAT THE ARMY WILL SERVE
THE PEOPLE AS TRUE SOLDIERS OF ISLAM AND RETURN THE
GOVERNMENT TO CIVILIAN CONTROL FOLLOWING ELECTIONS IN
OCTOBER.
HUMMEL

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